

Welcome to Luanda, Angola. This booklet contains a few facts, suggestions and advice, which we hope will help you to settle in and understand the city and its people.

Angola suffered from almost three decades of war following its independence in 1975. However, the country is now well on the path to recovery, with elections expected to occur in 2009. Angola is blessed with abundant natural resources including oil and diamonds; the country is a major supplier of oil to the United States. The new Embassy building was inaugurated in September 2005, providing a high quality office environment from which to carry out mission goals.

Luanda itself is a vibrant city, with many new restaurants and clubs having opened within the last several years. Supermarkets are well stocked, with most imported goods coming via South Africa or Portugal. Within a two-hour drive of Luanda there are several attractive beaches and numerous opportunities for sport fishing. Tennis courts are available in Luanda and there is a basic but challenging golf course with spectacular views of the ocean within a short drive of the city.

Arriving in Luanda

This chapter tells you how to maneuver the Luanda airport, what you should expect the first several days, and gives you a map of the arrival area.

Aeroporto “4 de Fevereiro” is located 4 km from the center of Luanda, a journey of around 15 minutes depending on traffic. The Embassy is around 20 minutes away. You will be met at the airport by an expeditor and your sponsor. The expeditor will meet you at the baggage claim area after you clear customs.

Entering the Terminal Building

A bus will take the arriving passengers from the plane to the terminal. As you enter the terminal building after leaving the bus, proceed to:

Vaccination control (1 on the diagram)

It is necessary for the vaccination control station to inspect the visitor’s international vaccination certificate (shot record including Yellow Fever vaccination), which you give together with the completed immigration form you received at the first entrance upon arrival or on the aircraft, to the health unit staff member in the white lab coat. He should return both documents with the immigration form stamped on the back for

clearance. Without a stamp on your immigration form, immigration control will send you back. Proceed to the immigration control stations.

Immigration control

Join the line for “Estrangeiros” (foreigners). Be prepared to wait for a while. Submit your passport with visa and the immigration. Your passport will be reviewed, visa stamped and photo taken. Then passport returned.

Vaccination control

It is necessary for the vaccination control station to inspect the visitor’s international vaccination certificate (shot record including Yellow Fever vaccination), which you give them for review right after passport control and before you enter baggage claim. The personnel will sometimes be wearing white lab coats

Baggage claim

Before entering the baggage claim area, you will need to show your passport and immigration form again to an immigration/economic control officer standing at the entrance. He may ask you questions regarding money. Collection of baggage occurs next to one of the three carousels.

Customs

Following customs, you will also need to hand over your baggage claim slips attached to your ticket for inspection. This is to check whether you have all your bags and that they are yours.

Warning

Photography is strictly forbidden at the airport and the surrounding area.



MAP OF LUANDA